



## Agenda

# Competitiveness Conversations Across America: Growing the Future with Blue and Green Tech

### Location

Tufts University

### June 5-6, 2025 (All Times Eastern)

#### June 5

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm:	Registration and Networking
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Programming
5:30 pm – 6:15 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Reception
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Dinner

#### June 6

8:00 am – 8:30 am:	Breakfast, Networking, and Registration
8:30 am – 12:15 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Programming
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm:	Lunch
1:15 pm – 5:00 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Programming



## Growing the Future with Blue and Green Tech

**June 5**

**3:30 PM REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING**

**4:00 PM WELCOME**

**Dr. Sunil Kumar**, President, Tufts University  
**The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith**, President & CEO, Council on Competitiveness

**4:15 PM PUTTING COMPETITIVENESS IN CONTEXT:  
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

New England is one of the nation’s most important centers of education, research, high technology, and finance—with reach across many industries. This panel—led by the co-hosts of this edition of the [“Competitiveness Conversations Across America”](#) and under the auspices of the [Council on Competitiveness “National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers”](#)—will discuss and connect two emergent and convergent domains: tech-based innovation across the blue and green economies. This panel will put into context the role each domain will play in advancing the region’s long-term innovation capacity and capability, economic and productivity growth, and inclusive prosperity. At the same time, leaders will highlight the best and *next* practices for New England and the United States.

**5:15 PM FIRST LOOK:  
INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS—NEW ENGLAND**

Place-making innovation takes place in a supportive ecosystem. This snapshot provides a glimpse into New England’s innovation and competitiveness ecosystem—highlighting strengths and weaknesses.

**5:30 PM WELCOME RECEPTION**

**6:15 PM COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION DINNER**

**DINNER KEYNOTE**

**8:00 PM DINNER CONCLUDES**



## June 6

**8:00 AM BREAKFAST, NETWORKING, AND REGISTRATION**

**8:30 AM WELCOME ADDRESSES**

**8:45 AM DEVELOPING THE PILLARS OF THE NEW ENGLAND BLUE & GREEN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

Leaders from industry, academia, national laboratories, labor, and government will discuss the pressing challenges and significant opportunities for New England to set the national and global pace in the blue and green economies. The discussion will focus on pillars of the region's innovation economy, including talent, technology, investment, and infrastructure, which underpin the region's competitiveness and future success. This session will also highlight collaborations and best practices from within the regional innovation ecosystem that unite startups, established firms, research institutions, and government.

Key questions to consider:

- How do you define the blue and green economies, and what is their relationship to sustainable economic growth?
- How are leaders in New England reimagining traditional frameworks to foster the development and coordination of blue and green innovation hubs at local, state, and regional levels?
- What essential policies and partnerships are critical for nurturing thriving place-based blue and green economies, which are driven by innovation?

**9:45 AM MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**10:00 AM NETWORKING BREAK**

**10:15 AM CHARTING THE COURSE FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY: NAVIGATING INNOVATION CHANGE WAVES ACROSS MARITIME INDUSTRIES**

Leading experts from academia, industry, and the scientific community will examine the challenges and opportunities at the intersection of maritime shipping, fishing and aquaculture, coastal tourism, renewable energy, undersea mining, and biotechnology. Their discussions will highlight the impacts on scientific discovery, innovative place-making, and regional economic



development, ultimately creating a vision for greater productivity and prosperity in New England and coastal communities nationwide.

Key questions to consider:

- What challenges do oceans and coastal communities face, and what opportunities emerge from them?
- What investments across infrastructure, technology, and workforce development are needed for the region's blue economy to reach its potential?
- What are the critical best practices underpinning the propagation of the blue economy—and what barriers must be breached to achieve full impact?

## **11:00 AM TECH TALK: BLUE ECONOMY**

## **11:15 AM SPARKING THE GREEN ECONOMY: NEW ENGLAND'S GROWING INNOVATION LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY**

How has New England become an innovation hub for sustainable technology, agriculture, forestry, the decarbonization of the building and construction sectors, electric vehicle infrastructure, energy grid modernization, and other rapidly expanding sectors of the green economy? This panel of experts will address this question and provide recommendations to unlock and accelerate research, development, innovation, and commercialization in sustainable tech—ultimately enhancing the region's and nation's resilience.

Key questions to consider:

- How has sustainable tech become a major driver of economic growth in New England?
- How are partnerships among businesses, higher education, research institutions, and government helped unleash innovation in sustainable tech?
- What are emerging best practices and strategies for rapidly expanding the green economy?

## **12:00 PM TECH TALK: GREEN ECONOMY**

## **12:15 PM LUNCH**



## **1:15 PM UNLOCKING NEW ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC POTENTIAL: COMMERCIALIZING BLUE AND GREEN TECH INNOVATIONS**

How can next-generation innovations in the blue and green economies foster the new businesses and industries essential for creating the high-value jobs and resilient communities of tomorrow? This panel will examine the opportunities and challenges of commercializing new technologies in these two sectors, and it will highlight successful case studies, practices, and policies that can be expanded to drive the next wave of economic impact on land and sea.

Key questions to consider:

- What are the challenges and opportunities to develop tech-based innovation in the region?
- What do investors, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders (public and private) need to help de-risk investments and to accelerate innovation?
- What investments are needed to grow and strengthen the region's innovation ecosystem to accelerate the blue and green economies?

## **2:00 PM TECH TALK: EXPLORING NEW ENGLAND CUTTING-EDGE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

## **2:15 PM NETWORKING BREAK**

## **2:30 PM LEADING THE BLUE AND GREEN ECONOMIES WITH THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED WORKFORCE**

The blue and green economies of the future will require a workforce equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to develop and support it. This panel will explore innovative educational programs, industry partnerships, and community engagement strategies aimed at addressing skill gaps, workforce training needs, and driving job creation—with a special focus on revitalizing rural America.

Key questions to consider:

- What skills are essential for workers in the blue and green economies, and how are educational programs adapting to address these needs?
- What are good examples of successful industry-education partnerships that have addressed skill gaps?
- How can community engagement help raise awareness and involve local stakeholders in workforce development to support the blue and green economies?



**3:15 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**3:30 PM FROM VISION TO ACTION: A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR THE BLUE AND GREEN ECONOMIES IN NEW ENGLAND**

The region and nation with the most efficient and sustainable economy will hold a competitive advantage over its rivals. This concluding panel will examine the path forward for New England to position itself as a leader in the blue-green economy of the future—as well as the scalable lessons that can be shared to optimize the U.S. economy for a future in which sustainability and innovation will be increasingly linked.

Key questions to consider:

- Looking ahead, what are the most significant opportunities and challenges for New England’s economic competitiveness over the next 25 years?
- How can government, industry, and academia collaborate effectively to drive innovation and promote sustainable economic practices in New England?
- What lessons can the rest of the country learn from New England’s success and work in this space?

**4:15 PM CONVERSATION CLOSE**